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January 17, 2011

Senator Jon Sonju, Chair, and Members Senate Local Government Committee:

**Re: Pass SB108, Large Predator Policy**

We have witnessed the disastrous adverse effects on game herds and domestic animals when Federal Agencies, in consultation with MT Fish Wildlife and Parks and other agencies, introduced wolves to Yellowstone National Park without coordinating their plans and actions with affected counties.

Formal coordination ensures that agencies cannot simply consider the comments of local governments, then proceed to do what they want. Federal coordination law does not allow counties to dictate to federal agencies because federal law is supreme on federal land. Coordination law simply ensures that differences between county and federal plans or policies are resolved before the decision or the federal agency must prove why they cannot accommodate local plans or policies in their decision.

Senator Barrett's proposed Bill, SB108, is needed because it will ensure local governments are notified of their right to invoke formal coordination with federal and state agencies prior to implementing plans and actions involving large predators on federal lands. SB 108 is timely because Montana must take every action possible to deal with the existing wolf population emergency.

Please pass SB 108

Respectfully,

Fred D. Hodgeboom, President  
Montanans For Multiple Use  
406.837-1363